We claim:

1. An apparatus for assisting magnetic strip readers in reading cards having a magnetic strip, the apparatus comprising: front and back panels joined together along at least two edges to form a card holder having an opening between said front and back panels through which the card can pass; said front and back panels each having a first section and a second section, said first section being sized to extend from a point near the bottom of said panels to a point above the magnetic strip of the card when the card is received in the holder; said first section having a thickness of between about 0.0004" to about 0.0008"; said second section having a thickness sufficient to rigidize the holder enough to enable the holder to be opened by squeezing together opposite sides of said second section.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second section has a thickness of about 0.004" to about 0.008".

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first section is made from a film of high density polyethylene.

4. An apparatus for assisting magnetic strip readers in reading cards having a magnetic strip, the apparatus comprising: front and back panels joined together along at least two edges to form a card holder having an opening between said front and back panels through which the card can pass; at least a portion of said front panel comprising a plastic film section, said plastic film section being sized and positioned such that when a card having a magnetic strip is inserted in the apparatus, the magnetic strip will be in register with the plastic film.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the plastic film is a high density polyethylene film.

6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the plastic film has a thickness of between about 0.0004" to about 0.0008".

7. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said plastic film portion extends from near a bottom of said front panel to a point above the magnetic strip of the card when the card is received in the holder

8. The apparatus of claim 7 including an upper section above said film portion, said upper section being thicker than said film portion, said upper section having a thickness sufficient to rigidize the holder enough to enable the holder to be opened by squeezing together opposite sides of said second section.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said upper section has a thickness of about 0.004" to about 0.008".

10. A method of enhancing the ability of a magnetic strip reader to read a magnetic strip of a card; the method comprising the steps of:

covering the magnetic strip of the card with a plastic film; and

passing the card in the card holder through the magnetic strip reader.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of covering the magnetic strip with a plastic film comprises:

providing a card holder, the card holder comprising a panel having a plastic film sized and positioned on said panel to cover at least the magnetic strip of the card; and

applying said card holder to the card such that the magnetic strip faces and is in register with said plastic film; and

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said plastic film is a high density polyethylene.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said plastic film has a thickness of between about 0.0004" to about 0.0008".

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said card holder comprises a backing and said plastic film being adhered to said backing along at least two edges of said film; said step of applying card holder to the card comprising opening said card holder and inserting said card between said plastic film and said backing.